Amendments To The Claims:

1. (previously presented)   A process for producing a balloon comprising:

(a)   axially stretching an extruded tubing segment made of a polymer material while pressurizing the tubing at an internal pressure above ambient pressure, to produce a stretched parison, the tubing segment having a first internal diameter and the polymer material having a glass transition temperature above ambient temperature, and then

(b)   blowing the balloon by expanding the stretched parison in a mold at a temperature above' said glass transition temperature,

wherein said axially stretching comprises a step (a)(i) of subjecting the tubing to a temperature and internal pressure which is sufficient to expand the internal diameter of at least a portion A of the stretched parison to a second internal diameter greater than the first internal diameter while axially pulling the tubing.

2. (original) A process as in claim 1 wherein the polymer material includes a polymer selected from the group consisting of olefin/ionomer copolymers; polyesters; polyamides; polyurethanes; polyetheretherketone; polycarbonates; poly(meth)acrylates; maleate polymers; and block copolymers having polyester or polyamide segments.

3. (original)   A process as in claim 1 wherein the polymer material includes a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide/polyether/polyester, polyamide/polyether, and polyester/polyether block copolymers; ethylene terephthalate polymers and copolymers; butylene terephthalate polymers and copolymers; ethylene naphthalate polymers and copolymers; and polyamides.

4. (original)   A process as in claim 1 wherein said extruded tubing segment is formed of a single layer of polymer material.

5. (previously presented)   A process as in claim 1 wherein said extruded tubing segment is

formed of at least two layers of polymer material.

6. (previously presented)   A process as in claim 1 wherein the balloon comprises a body portion having proximal and distal ends; proximal and distal cone portions, the cone portions being respectively located adjacent the respective proximal and distal ends of the balloon body; and proximal and distal waist portions adjacent the respective proximal and distal cone portions, and wherein, in step (b), said portion A of the stretched parison forms at least the balloon body.

7. (previously presented)   A process as in claim 6 wherein the stretched parison comprises a second portion B1 having an ID which is not greater than the first internal diameter and in step (b) one of the waist portions of the balloon is formed from said portion B1.

8. (previously presented)   A process as in claim 7 wherein said axial stretching further comprises a the step (a)(ii), of forming said stretched parison portion B1 by reducing a portion of the extruded tubing segment to an internal diameter less than said first internal diameter prior to said step (a)(i).

9. (previously presented)   A process as in claim 7 wherein portion B1 of the stretched parison forms the distal waist portion of the balloon, and the stretched parison comprises a third portion (B2) having an ID which is not greater than the first internal diameter, and in step (b) the proximal waist portion of the balloon is formed from said portion B1.

10. (previously presented)   A process as in claim 9 wherein said axial stretching further comprises the a step (a)(ii), of forming at least one of said stretched parison portion B1 and B2 by necking down a portion of the extruded tubing segment to an ID less than said first internal diameter.

11. (previously presented)   A process as in claim 7 wherein said step (a)(ii) is performed at a pressure or temperature which is less than the respective pressure or temperature employed in step (a)(i).

12. (original)   A process as in claim 1 wherein in step (a)(i) the pressure is in the range of 25-1000 psi (172-6894 kPa) and the temperature is in the range of 15-60 °C.

13. (cancelled)